

Spark Gap

Volume 25, Issue 2, February 2008 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*



Jack Parker,
W8ISH, MARC
President

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

January Tornadoes & Building Knowledge

January Tornadoes

Once again, Mother Nature reminded us anything is possible when it comes to weather. Storm spotters across Indiana were busy Tuesday January 29th when powerful spring

like conditions turned ugly. Early evening thunderstorms spawned several tornadoes across the state and powerful straight-line winds near Speedway.

Johnson County Skywarn spotters kept a wary eye to the sky as strong thunder storms with high winds and torrential rains raked across the county around 7 PM that night. Our Skywarn net activated around 7 PM and secured forty minutes later. Fourteen base and three mobile units reported into the Net. Fortunately, Johnson County escaped any serious property damage.

Mother Nature put icing on the cake when temperature dropped into the teens overnight leaving moderate wind damage around Indianapolis frozen in place.

This rare outbreak comes just weeks before our annual Skywarn training. Johnson County Emergency Management and the Indianapolis office of the National Weather Service will conduct a free two-hour class Tuesday evening March 4th at the EOC. The session is open to the public and all amateur radio spotters.

Building Knowledge

Time to warm up that rusty soldering iron. Beginning February 16th Brian Murrey KB9BVN will guide club members through a series of electronic kit building projects.. We will start with a simple to build multimeter and work our way up to more difficult projects like QRP transceivers . This will teach us how to properly solder and how to recognize surface mount

components. Building a digital multimeter is the first step toward equipping your ham shack with basic test equipment.

Brian, KB9BVN, is recommending we build the M1005K Digital Multimeter Kit (soldering kit)

Brian also recommends these kit-building tools:

- 15w to 25w soldering pencil. We suggest a Weller, it will last 100 years.
- Small diameter solder (.032 inch with 60/40 composition)
- Small diagonal cutters
- Small set of wire strippers
- Solder sucker
- Safety glasses or regular glasses



For more information please check out the website at www.midstatehams.org.

Jack, W8ISH, MARC Prez

CQ CQ CQ

Boy Scouts of America Calling



With any luck dozens of Johnson County Boy Scouts will try their hand at making VHF radio contacts Friday night February 29th. This adventure comes as the scouts work on various merit badges during a two day lock-in at Greenwood High School.

Former scout leader Brian Murrey, KB9BVN, and Marc Snell, KC9CCM, will set up an amateur radio station inside the high school and lead the boys toward earning their communications merit badge. MARC club members are asked to help each scout pass their on-air requirement by talking with them from their home or mobile ham station. Brian says the QSO session will wrap up by 11 PM that evening. Our Public Information Officer, Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH, will be on hand to talk to the scouts about Amateur Radio, Disasters and SKYWARN. Scouts will go away with information about how they might use an amateur radio license for emergency communications and public service.

Barring any major disasters the Johnson County Emergency Communications Van will be on hand for scout tours. Jack, W8ISH, says they may even operate VHF simplex to other hams so each scout has an ample opportunity for a meaningful QSO.

Let's see if we can't Do our best, to Do our duty, to help these scouts see the fun and value of becoming an Amateur Radio Operator.

-W8ISH

Columbus Hamfest

It's that time again to get ready for the Columbus annual hamfest. This year will mark the 25th year of the hamfest sponsored by the Columbus Amateur Radio Club. The hamfest will take place on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 8 AM to 2 PM at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds, Community Building, located at 750 W. 200 South, Columbus, Indiana 47201. General admission is \$5.00, the day of the show or \$4.50 if you get your ticket in advance.

Talk-in for the event will be at 146.79 MHz (-600kHz, PL 100 Hz). Grand prize this year is a Kenwood TM-V71A 2-meter;440 mobile radio. Parking for the event is free.

Flea market space is available at a rate of \$1/foot. So an 8 foot table would cost you \$8. Rental fee includes tables. Friday night set-up is from 6 to 9 PM. Saturday set-up begins at 6 AM.

Registration will be conducted at the door or in advance. Please enclose an SASE with advance exhibitor reservations or advance general admission. Any advance registrations must be prepaid and postmarked by March 13, 2008. Make checks payable to the Columbus Amateur Radio Club.

For registrations or more information, contact Marion Winterberg, WD9HTN, 11941 W. Sawmill Road, Columbus, Indiana 47201, (812) 342-4670 or via email to carc_in@yahoo.com.

MARC's own VEC team will be at the event offering testing for all license types. Linda, KC9GCH, will also be there representing the ARRL so be sure to stop by and visit with club members.

For more information and/or a copy of the hamfest flyer, visit CARC's website at www.qsl.net/carc.

Officers

President:
Jack Parker,
W8ISH

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Carol Osborne,
KC9CFK

Treasurer:
Steve Carmean,
K9DY

Repeater Trustee:
Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editors:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

**Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH**

Annual Dues

It's that time again. Club dues are now due for 2008. Please see the club treasurer, Steve Carmean, K9DY, at the December meeting and pay your club dues at that time. Full member dues at \$18.00 per year for membership in MARC.

Full members are those who have a valid amateur radio license. Full members may vote and hold office. Associate members are those who are licensed and/or unlicensed without the privilege of voting and/or holding license. Associate member dues are \$10.00 per year.

MARC also has a category for family members. Family members are persons related to and living in the same household as a full member. Family members may not vote or hold office.

Another category of membership is available. Honorary Lifetime Members may be nominated at any regular meeting. Such nominations must be made by a full member of MARC. This status is intended to be an exceptional honor, in recognition of especially meritorious and distinguished contributions of the nominee of the club. A majority vote of members present and voting is required to confer this status.

An Honorary Lifetime Member shall pay no dues and shall retain all the privileges of full membership. A Dues Exempt Membership is also available. Please see our Treasurer for details.

Updating Club Roster

We will continue updating our club roster in February 2008. Linda, KC9GCH, will have membership forms for all paid members to fill out at the February 2008 meeting. Please fill out the forms and turn them in to our Treasurer, Steve, K9DY.

Also on hand will be applications for ARES/RACES. If your information has changed, or if you wish to join, please see Linda for a forms. Completed forms should be given to Bob LaGrange, N9SIU.

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. For directions to the meeting and/or test site, please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org.

NWS Info

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Indianapolis will hold it's next installment of the Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium, an all day session, on Saturday, March 1st, 2008 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Valle Vista Conference Center, 775 East Main Street, Greenwood, Indiana. The Symposium is cosponsored by the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. This Symposium will be geared towards providing more advance information for spotters. More information and the registration form are available at www.crh.noaa.gov. Early registration fee is \$30 but must be received by February 1, 2008.

Annual Spotter Classes - 3/4/08

The National Weather Service (NWS), Indianapolis office will hold it's annual Spotter Training session in Johnson County on Tuesday, March 4th from 7 PM to 9 PM in the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency in Franklin, IN.

This event is open to the public and you don't have to have an amateur radio operator to become a trained weather spotter - although it does help.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST

Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 p.m. local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline.

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org and we will record your check-in!



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317.887.2558

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2008 Schedule of Events

FEBRUARY 2008

- 16 MARC Meeting - 8 AM**
VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am); Kit building also begins immediately following the meeting
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 18 MARC begins its 25th Year today!**
- 23 Cabin Fever Hamfest, LaPorte, IN**
See www.k9jsi.org for more information; Talk-in 146.610 (PL131.8) or 146.520 Simplex
- 29 Boy Scouts - Merit Badge Lock-in**
Greenwood High School, Greenwood, IN
Be on the air, 146.835 from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM and help the boy scouts earn their Radio Merit Badge; KB9BVN, KC9CCM, and KC9GCH will be at the high school.

MARCH 2008

- 1 National Weather Service Spotter Symposium, Valle Vista, Greenwood, IN**
See NWS website at www.crh.noaa.gov for more information; Early registration fee is \$30
- 1 Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Sullivan, IN**
See www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html for more information. Talk-in on 146.775 (PL136.5)
- 1 10K Mini Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at www.Indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer
- 4 National Weather Service Spotter Training - 7 PM - 9 PM**
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 9 Daylight Savings Time begins**
- 15 MARC Meeting - 8 AM**
VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 29 Columbus Hamfest, Columbus, IN**
More details to follow next month; MARCs VEC Team will be there testing.

APRIL 2008

- 12 15K Mini Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at www.Indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer
- 19 MARC Meeting - 8 AM**
VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.